

Last year Federal, State, and law enforcement officers were killed in substantial numbers, but they say that fewer were killed than at any year since the mid-1960's. Still, one is too many. And statistics, the numbers like 120 people being killed in the line of duty by violent means, they belie the real human stories.

In my State, a 74-year-old sheriff's deputy was beaten to death. That's more than an assault on a law enforcement officer; it's an affront to our common humanity. That officer, R.D. Purifoy, was from a little county next to the one where I was born in Arkansas. He was so dedicated that any time, day or night, for 26 years, he was always there to answer the call. And on the day he died last November, he was simply trying to settle a domestic quarrel.

Then there was Jerry Stallings, a police officer from Barling, Arkansas, in the western part of my State, whose family is here tonight. He was investigating an auto accident when he was struck by a drunk driver. It should have been a routine investigation, but as every law enforcement officer knows, there's no such thing as a routine investigation.

Tonight we honor these men and their families. We honor all those who have fallen throughout our Nation as they carried out their duties to make our lives better and safer: from the officers on the beat and the street, to the patrols on the highways, to the Federal agents in all fields. Tonight we light the darkness with the memories and glories of those who died in the service of their neighbors, their communities, and our Nation. Their brave souls are among us; they are carried brightly in our hearts in gratitude, in joy, in sorrow, yes, but also in the certainty that God looks after those who give such a full measure of their devotion.

We honor these valiant men and women not for dying, because death comes to us all eventually. We honor them for how they died and how they lived. In life they gave us aid when we were helpless, shielded us when we were vulnerable, lifted us when we had fallen, gave us comfort when we were afraid. In rooting out our lawless, they preserved our order. They were our fathers and sons, our

brothers and sisters, our mothers and daughters. They were our friends.

Their contribution cannot be measured nor properly honored by their President or any other citizen except to say a simple thank you and to give a prayer to God for their souls. They will be remembered as all of you knew them, standing tall and ready, the sentinels of our liberty. Let us live in ways that will honor their ultimate contribution to our lives.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 p.m. at the National Law Enforcement Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Craig Floyd, chairman, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, and Kathleen A. Young, president, Concerns of Police Survivors. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Nomination for Posts at the Departments of HUD, Transportation, and State *May 13, 1993*

The President announced his intention today to nominate G. Edward DeSeve and Nelson Diaz to be Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel, respectively, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, David Hinson to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and Peter Galbraith to be Ambassador to Croatia.

"We are continuing to make real progress in filling key positions in my administration," said the President. "This group of individuals whose appointments we are announcing today have the kind of experience and expertise that our country needs."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks Honoring Blue Ribbon Schools *May 14, 1993*

Thank you very much. Thank you, Secretary Riley. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.